Year	Population engaged in Agriculture		Percentage share of Agriculture in	
	Number (Million)	Percentage to total population	GDP	GNP
1951	238.9	66.15	52.23	52.47
1961	288.2	65.63	43.01	43.22
1971	352.5	64.2	42.36	42.67
1981	425.5	62.1	34.69	34.59
1991	503.2	59.6	29.67	29.50

(c) Though percentage of persons engaged in agriculture to the total population has decreased, the actual number of persons enaged in agriculculture has gone up.

Horticulture evelopment in the country

1378. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has finalised an action plan to give boost to horticulture development in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated for promotion and development of horticulture in high potential areas;

(c) the details of State-wise areas finalised in general and specially for Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Goa alongwith the programme finalised;

(d) the projected investment Statewise, Union Territory-wise in horticulture sector during Eighth Plan period; and

(e) the details of foreign investment expected for development of horticulture during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Ministry of Agriculture has identified horticulture as main thrust area. The allocations have been raised from about Rs. 24 crores of seventh plan to Rs. 1000 crores during VIII Five Year Plan period. The details of sectoral allocations are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	(Rs. in crores)
1	Programmes of National Horticulture Board	200.00
2	Programmes of Coconut Development Board	100.00
3	Development of Spices	150.00
4	Development Cashewnuot	30.00
5	Development of Tropical, Arid Zone and Temperate Fruits . .	85.00

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	(Rs in crores)
6	Use of Plastics in Agriculture including Drip Irrigation etc	250.00
7	Production of Fruits and Vegetables Augmenting Vegetable Seed Production	15.00
8	Development of Cocoa	3.00
9	Development of Arecanut	5.00
10	Development of Mushroom Cultivation	10.00
11	Promoting Cultivation of Root and Tuber Crops.	2.50
12	Development of Floriculture	10.00
13	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	5.00
14	Development of Betelvine	2.00
15	Export Enhancement Programme	132.50
		1000.00

(c) and (d) The varibus Central Sector Programmes for horticulture development are under the process of clearance of Expenditure Finance Committee. All the above mentioned programmes are proposed to be implemented in all the States|Union Territories including Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Gujarat and Goa except the programmes at Serial Number 8 and 9.

(e) Under an Indo-Italian Project for development of temperate climate fruit crops a foreign investment of Rs. 6.46 crores was expected from August, 1990, of which about Rs. 3.00 crores will be spent during first 2 years of the VIII plan period.

Starvation Deaths

1379. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of starvation deaths in each State during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 and the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): No report of any starvation death has been received from any State Government, during 1991-92 and 1992-93.

Production of Sugarcane

1380. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been gradual decline in the sugarcane production in the country;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of decline in the sugarcane production during 1992-93 as compared to the production in 1991-92 stating the shrinkage in the sugarcane cultivated areas;

(c) what are the major causes identified for the decline in the production of sugarcane; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to encourage the sugarcane